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wherein said domed portion is elastomeric.

REMARKS

Claims 14-16, 18-20, and 24-26 are pending in this application. Applicants have amended claims 14-16 to insure proper antecedent basis, and applicants have amended claims 14 and 16 for clarity.

The Office Action rejects claims 14-16 under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 1,982,538 to Reedy (hereinafter "Reedy"). In particular, the Office Action asserts that "Reedy" discloses a method of forming a plurality of perforations in a concavely curved domed portion of a vent disc with every active step of the claimed method."

Applicants respectfully submit that the Reedy patent does not anticipate claims 14-16. Independent claims 14 and 16 provide that the domed portion is "elastomeric." In contrast, the face plate 12 of the shower head 10 of Reedy is made from a metal material, and Reedy does not disclose or suggest an elastomeric domed portion.

Additionally, claims 14 and 16 have the feature of a domed portion with a plurality of perforations that are resealable. In contrast, the Reedy patent does not disclose or suggest resealable perforations. The Reedy invention is directed to controlling a stream of liquid from "coarse" to "fine" and teaches away from resealable apertures. Reedy teaches apertures 36 that always permit liquid to flow through them. Specifically, the Reedy patent explicitly provides a face plate having apertures 36

and pins 56 being adapted to enter the apertures 36 such that the "entering portions of the pins 56 in all positions of adjustment fit loosely within the apertures 36 so that flow through the latter is never shut off by the pins." (page 2, lines 95-99). An extraneous series of pins are required to control, but not stop, the stream of liquid flowing through the apertures 36 in the Reedy invention. Thus, Reedy does not anticipate the resealable apertures of the present invention.

Therefore, for these reasons, independent claims 14 and 16 of the present invention are not anticipated by the cited Reedy reference. Further, it follows that claim 15, which depends from independent claim 14, also is not anticipated by the cited reference for at least the same reasons expressed above.

The Office Action rejects dependent claims 18-20, and 24-26 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Reedy. The Office Action rejects these claims contending that, "...it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to provide slits rather than the round holes of Reedy for the benefits including that described above[,]...[namely] providing a desired flow pattern/configuration for the water." (See paragraph 5.)

For the reasons discussed above, Reedy does not disclose or suggest, and indeed teaches away from, the features of the domed portion being elastomeric and the plurality of perforations being resealable. Thus, claims 18-20, and 24-26, which depend from independent claims 14

and 16, respectively, must be found non-obvious in view of Reedy.

Applicants also respectfully submit that claims 18-20 and 24-26 are not unpatentable over Reedy because the art of making vent discs for baby bottles is non-analogous to the art of making shower heads directed to controlling the pattern of a continuous flow of liquid.

Further, in contrast to the cited art, claims 18-20, and 24-26 are explicitly directed to a single member, a vent disc, made of an elastomeric material chosen so that the perforations therein vent air from the disc and are resealable. Reedy discloses a shower head having a carrier plate 48, pins 56 disposed in carrier plate 48, and a face plate 12. These multiple elements interact for the sole purpose of flow pattern control of a continuous stream of liquid. Reedy explicitly states that the flow of liquid is "never shut off by the pins." (page 2, lines 98-99). Therefore, regardless of the dimensions or the geometry of the apertures of the invention disclosed by Reedy, the cited art explicitly teaches away from a vent disc having resealable perforations. Therefore, claims 18-20 and 24-26 are non-obvious over Reedy and could not be a "mere discovery of the optimum or workable ranges within the general conditions of the cited art."


In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims present in this application patentably distinguish over the cited prior art. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of the

claims. Also, Applicants respectfully request that this application be passed to allowance.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Such action is most earnestly solicited. If for any reason the Examiner feels that consultation with Applicants' attorney would be helpful in the advancement of the prosecution, he is invited to call the telephone number below for an interview.

Respectfully submitted:

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Date


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14. (Thrice amended) A method of forming a plurality of perforations in a concavely curved domed portion of a vent disc, ~~the~~ said plurality of perforations each having centerlines, which comprises:

forming ~~the~~ said plurality of perforations with each of ~~the~~ said centerlines coincident to a radius that forms ~~the~~ a concave curvature of ~~the~~ said domed portion,

wherein ~~the~~ said plurality of perforations have at least two different diameters through ~~the~~ said domed portion, -

wherein said plurality of perforations are resealable,
and

wherein said domed portion is elastomeric.

15. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 14, ~~wherein~~ the method includes further comprising forming a plurality of upwardly extending depressions in ~~the~~ an undersurface of ~~the~~ said domed portion, said plurality of depressions each having a centerlines that ~~are~~ is coincident with said radius that forms ~~the~~ said concave curvature of ~~the~~ a domed portion.

16. (Twice Amended) A method of forming a plurality of perforations in a concavely curved domed portion of a vent disc, which comprises:

forming a plurality of upwardly extending depressions in ~~the~~ an undersurface of ~~the~~ said domed portion while leaving a residual of said domed portion above ~~the~~ said plurality of depressions, said plurality of depressions each having a centerlines, said centerlines being coincident with a radius that forms ~~the~~ a concave curvature

of ~~the~~ said domed portion; and

forming a plurality of perforations through said residual, said plurality of perforations being resealable and each ~~said perforations~~ having a centerlines, said perforation-centerlines of said plurality of perforations being formed coincident to said centerlines of said plurality of depressions-,

wherein said domed portion is elastomeric.